

The Punta Gorda Herald

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A FINE CHRISTMAS.

Governor-Elect Gave a Smoker. Other Pleasant Features.

Christmas in Punta Gorda passed quietly, except for the usual shooting of fire-crackers and such festivities as are appropriate to the season.

Evidences of merriment were noticeable several days before the 25th, but the Christmas trees in the various churches marked the real beginning of the festivities.

In the Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, the trees were laden with gifts for both old and young, the Sunday school children in each instance being the ones most vitally concerned in the distribution. Beautiful decorations were characteristic of each of the trees.

At the Presbyterian church, the exercises by the children proved very interesting, but at the other churches only a scripture reading and the singing of songs preceded the taking down of the presents.

On Christmas Day, a smoker given by Gen. Gilchrist, Governor-elect of Florida, in the city hall, was a most pleasant affair. One of the features of the occasion was the speeches made by many of those who attended. Some of these were voluntary, but others were delivered under duress. Several of the gentlemen present having been a little backward about appearing on the platform, they were seized bodily by their friends and placed there forcibly; and their utterances, when before the audience, elicited tremendous applause. The punch and cigars, which were supplied to each guest in liberal amounts, attested the generosity of our next governor, and every one of the probable two hundred who shared in the hospitality of the General enjoyed himself to the fullest extent.

The field sports which had been arranged for the afternoon by the local tribe of Red Men, were called off on account of circumstances which arose and prevented the carrying out of the program.

The culminating events of the day were two social functions. An informal dance in McAdow hall was greatly enjoyed by about twenty young people; and Miss Maive McCann entertained a large number of her young friends at the home of her parents on Ketta Esplanade, all of those present having had a most pleasant time.

On the whole, Punta Gorda's Christmas was celebrated in a fitting way, with little drunkenness and no acts of rowdyism, and such few acts as may have been reprehensible, were so insignificant as to be hardly noticeable.

Ocala Banner:—The chief glory of all Christian nations seems to center on war and the evils of war, and, as a corollary thereto, murder is becoming an aristocratic crime. It seems almost a sacrilege to say that we are followers of the "Prince of Peace."

When it is understood that most things an editor knows and would make interesting reading is suppressed, the prevailing idea that he tells all he knows is an erroneous one.—*Fernandina Record.*

Jacksonville Times-Union:—In the opinion of the PUNTA GORDA HERALD, "Florida's greatest need today is not immigration or good roads so much as it is the adequate protection of human life and property through the repression of crime." The appalling frequency of murders in this state, it attributes to the uncertainty of detection, the uncertainty of conviction and the uncertainty of punishment. In the opinion of the Time-Union, the second cause hangs on the third and the first is to some degree an effect of it likewise. How can law officers be expected to be zealous in the detection of criminals, and juries to preserve the honor and good name of the state, where fifty out of fifty-two criminals who can manage to get their names before the pardoning board are either pardoned or have their sentences commuted?

DeLand Record:—Christmas, 1908, and all vegetation in Florida as luxuriant as if it were May. The old time winters of Florida were like the present, not cold enough to kill the tenderest vegetation. The guava, tomato and potato plants grew and kept green the winter through. May be those cycles of warm winters are returning, and let us hope so, that the tender truck may grow all winter and no cold injure the foliage of the orange tree.

Gainesville Sun:—The new year will ring out an administration of State affairs which has been conducted, so far as the Governor was concerned, for four years with the view of advancing his individual political interests, and ring in one which will be conducted upon business principles for the best interests of the whole people. Exit Broward, the politician; enter Gilchrist, the business man.

Great preparations are being made for the inauguration of Governor Gilchrist at Tallahassee on next Tuesday, January 5. A reception will be held at 8:30 p. m. and a grand ball will occur in the capital at 11 o'clock. The militia will be in attendance and the new Governor will take the oath of office promptly at 12 o'clock m.

Tit For Tat.

President Roosevelt preached a sermonette upon newspapers the other day in the following stanza from a prose poem on righteousness:

"There is no higher and more honorable calling than that of the men connected with an upright, fearless and truthful newspaper; no calling in which a man can render a greater service to his fellow-countrymen. The best and ablest editors and writers in the daily press render a service to the community which can hardly be paralleled by the service rendered by the best and ablest men in public life or the men in business. But the converse of this proposition is also true."

It may be said in passing that, to alter the formula, there is no higher or more honorable calling than that of president of the United States, when the prestige of the office and the power of the federal patronage is not used for political ends, and that the converse is true, for the White House, unlike the newspapers, is altogether a public institution.—*Courier-Journal.*

THREE MARRIAGES.

Arcadia Has Two and Grove City One.

LANIER-TOWNSEND.

A wedding that was a surprise to the many friends of the contracting parties was consummated in Arcadia Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock, when Mr. J. L. Lanier, of this city, and Miss Mabel Townsend of Tampa, were made man and wife.

It was known only to the immediate relatives of the young couple that they intended to get married, and they were successful in eluding their friends on Sunday afternoon, when they went up to Arcadia.

The ceremony was performed in the parlor of the Southern hotel of that city, Notary C. S. Noble, officiating.

Coming back to Punta Gorda on the noon train Monday, Mr. and Mrs. Lanier went directly to the home of Mrs. Wm. Johns, where they will have apartments until they perfect arrangements for going to housekeeping for themselves.

Logan, as the groom is familiarly known by his friends, is the son of J. M. Lanier, one of the pioneer settlers of this county; and having grown to manhood in this region, he is well known by every body. He is associated with his father in the feed and grocery business, and is blessed with the ability requisite to a successful career in that line.

The bride is the daughter of a well-to-do citizen of Tampa, and came here only three weeks ago, since which time she has been the guest of her cousin, Mrs. Wm. Johns. But her acquaintance with her husband began sometime previous to her coming to Punta Gorda.

To this happy couple, the best wishes of a large circle of friends with whom THE HERALD corresponds are extended.

LAMPT-ANGER.

At the residence of the father Mr. Lorin A. Anger, Grove City, on Wednesday, December 23rd, Mr. Jesse Full and Miss Edith May Anger were united in the holy bonds of matrimony by Rev. Rudolph Stanley, rector of the Episcopal church in Arcadia.

Governor's First Appointment.

Tallahassee Democrat:—Governor Gilchrist has selected and appointed Mr. G. Talbot Whitfield as his private secretary. The announcement came as quite a surprise to Tallahasseeans, since no citizen even had an idea that a Tallahasseean would be selected, and while it was known that there were a number of applicants for that position of great honor, Mr. Whitfield will measure up to the full standard in all respects, and Governor Gilchrist could not have secured a more efficient and competent man for that position in his State. Mr. Whitfield is one of the best posted men in Florida.

tor of the Episcopal church in Arcadia.

The ceremony was performed in the afternoon in the presence of a large number of the friends and relatives of the happy couple, and immediately following it, an elaborate supper was served.

Throughout the house beautiful decorations had been made for the occasion, palms, cedars, and a profusion of roses intertwined with red ribbons being conspicuous in every room.

A reception in the evening with dancing and merry-making, followed by a midnight supper, was the climax to the festivities.

Mr. and Mrs. Lampp were the recipients of many fine and useful presents, and have the best wishes of a host of friends for a long and happy wedded life. They will make their home in Englewood.

[A letter write-up of this wedding by Mr. A. St. John Shepherd, one of the guests, could not be used on account of its length and not being received early enough.]

BALDWIN-MITCHELL. In the Methodist church in Arcadia last night at 8 o'clock a marriage occurred, which, to the general popularity of the groom, is of interest to all over DeSoto county.

The contracting parties were Hon. Cyril Baldwin of Grove City and Miss Helen Mathilda, of Arcadia.

The ceremony was performed by Rev. C. W. White, pastor of the church, in the presence of a large assemblage of friends and relatives of bride and groom.

After the customary congratulations and best wishes were tendered the happy couple, they left the church, they were showered with rice.

Mr. Baldwin was the successful candidate for tax collector of DeSoto county in the recent election, and is a young gentleman of sterling business qualifications. In his bride he has won one of Arcadia's popular young ladies, who is admired for her many lovable characteristics. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Mitchell, of Arcadia.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Mitchell are well known in Arcadia, and their home is in Arcadia. They are both well known in Arcadia, and their home is in Arcadia.

MARKETING ORANGES.

Some Suggestions that Should be Considered by Growers.

A number of Florida newspapers concur with the Tampa Times in its expressions upon the marketing of oranges, and if the ideas of that paper are ever successfully put into practice, our growers will certainly benefit thereby. The following remarks should be considered by all who are interested in the crop:

In season and out of season, THE Times has been urging the orange growers of Florida to effect an organization for the express purpose of controlling and directing the marketing of the fruit. The complete demoralization of the market, the unsalability of the fruit, the loss of money in its cultivation—all these are now in evidence and emphasize the necessity of such an organization. Properly conducted, orange culture in Florida would prove one of its strongest attractions and largest sources of profit, but the haphazard, ignorant, panicky, scattered methods now employed would ruin even a mint. The stuff is pulled from the trees before it is fit to eat, half-packed, hurried to market through irresponsible houses, dumped on sale as if with a specific purpose of losing the grower money, and the result is before us.

Notwithstanding the numerous assertions that the crop of this year was ripening two weeks in advance of the usual date, the reverse is true. The fruit is just now, the first of December, beginning to be fit for consumption. It is just now combining its most delicate sweetness with the citric acidity which makes it the finest and best loved fruit in the world. In February it is just in its prime, and there is nothing but woeful mistake in rushing it to sale two months in advance of its fitted condition. It is thus there is a loss of loss by freezing on the trees, if the marketing is so long delayed—but reflective people are invited to contrast present conditions with the result of a well organized marketing system.

MUTILATED